



Sharon Watkins, PhD
Director, Bureau of Epidemiology and State Epidemiologist
Pennsylvania Department of Health
President, Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists

Dr. Sharon Watkins joined the Pennsylvania Department of Health in November 2015. She is the Director for the Bureau of Epidemiology and the State Epidemiologist and is responsible for the management and oversight of the Bureau which includes the Division of Infectious Disease, Environmental Health, and Community Health. Dr. Watkins is a graduate of Ohio State University and specialized in Epidemiology, Environmental Epidemiology, and Perinatal/Maternal & Child Epidemiology. Prior to joining Pennsylvania, she has served as Chief for the Bureau of Epidemiology and as Director of Public Health Research for the Florida Department of Health.

Since coming to Pennsylvania, she has led disease surveillance and outbreak response efforts including those related to Zika virus, healthcare associated infections, measles, hepatitis A and many others. Noninfectious efforts underway in the bureau being led by Dr. Watkins include neonatal abstinence syndrome surveillance, Zika related birth defects registry, surveillance of childhood and adult blood lead levels, public health response to water contamination with Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), community cancer concerns, and the current response to severe lung injuries related to vaping. Dr. Watkins has over 40 peer reviewed publications and over 20 years of experience in Applied Public Health and Epidemiology. She has served as an elected Executive Board member of the Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists since 2012 and is the current president.

Contact information:

Pennsylvania Department of Health
Bureau of Epidemiology
625 Forster Street, Room 933
Harrisburg, PA 17120
717-787-3350
Shawatkins@pa.gov